Top Tips for Keeping Your Child Safe Online

- **Talk to your child about what they're up to online**. Be a part of their online life; involve the whole family and show an interest. Find out what sites they visit and what they love about them, if they know you understand they are more likely to come to you if they have any problems. Watch Thinkuknow films and cartoons with your child.
The www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents website link has films, games and advice for child from age 5 all the way to age 16.

- **Encourage your child to go online and explore!** There is a wealth of age-appropriate sites online for your children. Encourage them to use sites which are fun, educational and that will help them to develop online skills.

- **Keep up-to-date with your child's development online**. Children grow up fast and they will be growing in confidence and learning new skills daily. It's important that as your child learns more, so do you.

- **Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world**. Think about what they might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online. It is important to discuss boundaries at a young age to develop the tools and skills children need to enjoy their time online.

- **Keep all equipment that connects to the internet in a family space**. For children of this age, it is important to keep internet use in family areas so you can see the sites your child is using and be there for them if they stumble across something they don't want to see. Please be reminded that many apps and websites such as YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and Music.ly are for children aged 13 and over. Games such as Minecraft, Moshimonsters, ClubPenguin and MovieStar Planet are all age appropriate for primary aged children (with suitable controls).

- **Know what connects to the internet and how**. Nowadays, even the TV can be connected to the internet. Make sure you're aware of the devices your child uses that connect to the internet, such as their phone, tablet or games console. Also, find out how they are accessing the internet – is it your connection, or a neighbour's wifi? This will affect whether the safety and parental control settings you set are being applied.

- **Use parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, tablets, computers, games consoles and mobile phones**. Parental controls are not just about locking and blocking, they are a tool to help you set appropriate boundaries as your child grows and develops. They are not the answer to your child's online safety, but they are a good start and they are not as difficult to install as you might think. Service providers are working hard to make them simple, effective and user friendly. There is a link on the 'Think u Know' website which can help you find your service provider and set your controls. Also, please visit http://familytime.io/ to find out about different parental control apps such as app blockers, locational devices and screen time limitation apps which can be downloaded on to phones and tablets.

- **Help your child to understand that they should never give out personal details to online 'friends'**—personal information includes (alongside their home address and school information) their messenger ID, email address, mobile number and any pictures of themselves, their family and friends. If your child publishes a picture or video online, anyone can change it or share it. Remind them that anyone could be looking at their images!

- **If you child receives spam/junk email, comments or texts, remind them never to believe them, reply to them or use them**. It's not a good idea for your child to open files from people they don't know. They won't know what they contain—it could be a virus or worse—an inappropriate image or film.

- **Help your child to understand that some people lie online and aren't who they say they are**. They should never meet up with any strangers without an adult they trust.

- **Teach your child how to block someone online and how to report them if they feel uncomfortable.** Using the report button, like the one below, or a more KS1 friendly report button such as 'Hector' from Hectors World (this can be downloaded), can help your child feel more comfortable and able to respond quicker to inappropriate content they might come across. These report buttons enable you to assess and report any inappropriate content found.

<u>Other suggestions:</u>

- If your child uses Youtube, which is a website/ app aimed at children aged 13 and over, a more suitable and appropriate form of the website suitable for primary aged children is **www.YouTubeKids.com** . This website has strict security controls which (although not 100% safe) provide a safer platform for children to surf child-friendly videos.

- **'Common Sense Media'** is a fantastic website and app which provides parents with lots of information on how to keep their children 'e-safe', shows parents which apps and websites are age-appropriate for their child or not and provides essential family guides on different aspects of e-safety.

- There is also lots of up to date advice from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Board about recently popularised websites and apps such as PokemonGo or Music.ly, and links to child-friendly and adult-friendly websites on the **'E-Safety' page on the School Website (found under 'Classes')**. Please take a look at this page with your child and go through some of the different links to ensure your child knows where extra guidance can be found.